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PATENT
8697.001.00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re application of

Stephen J. DAVIS

Group Art Unit: 2167

Application No.: 09/446,951

Examiner: M. CUFF

Filed: February 28, 2000

For: STEP APPARATUS

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Technology Center 2100

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to an Advisory Action dated October 30, 2001, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted with the Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 2 and 3 as follows (Attached is Exhibit I showing the amended claim changes):

1. (Twice Amended) A step apparatus, including:

a mounting portion adapted to be secured to a vehicle by a hitch assembly thereof;

and

a step portion hinged to the mounting portion forward of a hitch portion of the hitch assembly whereby the step portion may be moved from a first position where the step portion is disposed above a vehicle hitch and usable with or without the vehicle hitch being in use, to a second, stowed position adjacent to a rear portion of a vehicle and forward of the hitch.